

Four SWC schools left hunting for options

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Texas Christian University wanted an opportunity to join the Big Eight along with the rest of the Southwest Conference schools. But it didn't get the chance. Southwest Conference teams Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor were invited to join the Big Eight last

Friday. That left TCU, Southern Methodist, Houston and Rice as the only remaining SWC teams. TCU athletic director Frank Windegger said the four remaining SWC schools were denied the opportunity to join the Big Eight before the merger was announced. "It doesn't leave a bitter taste in my mouth, but I wish we'd have been better informed," he said. "I thought we'd go through step No. 1, which was the television contract, and then talk about a merger." But the process occurred in reverse order. The merger was announced last

week, with a television contract expected by the end of the month. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier said he found no fault in the Big Eight's dealings with the four slighted SWC teams. "We in the Big Eight tried very hard to be sensitive to the circumstances in the Southwest Conference," he said. "The other four schools were informed of what was developing. "It was as entirely professional and as sensitive as could be." TCU is left looking for options, Windegger said. "We're looking at our options in what's in the best interest of TCU," he

said. One option may be joining the new 12-team conference if it decides to expand to 14 schools. "We have strong hopes that the Big 12, if that's what you want to call it, will be looking to add two teams," Windegger said. "We want to have the opportunity to show them what TCU can offer. "We've looked at several options. We will play them through as we go." TCU basketball coach Moe Iba, who coached at Nebraska from 1981 to 1986, said he was disturbed by the

recent trend of teams leaving conferences for more money. "That's their choice," he said. "That's the way they want to do it." "It's a situation, like it or not, where it's the way things are being done. I guess you have to like it." Windegger said the move by the four SWC teams to the Big Eight was purely a business decision. "It's called scrambling for dollars," he said. "They made business decisions, and I have no fault with that. "We broke up everything. It's a shame we couldn't keep it together."

Nee hopes emotion carries NU to win

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's four seniors will be playing their final home game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center tonight at 7:05 as the Cornhuskers take on Oklahoma State.

And men's basketball coach Danny Nee said he hoped the emotion of saying farewell to seniors Tom Best, Bruce Chubick, Jamar Johnson and Eric Piatkowski would help avenge Nebraska's 98-80 loss earlier this season.

"We will play good, but will we play well enough, I don't know," Nee said. "I think there will be tremendous electricity and enthusiasm in the building. I do believe our players have confidence they can play with Oklahoma State."

Nee said Nebraska's wins over Kansas and Kansas State last week, which boosted the Huskers to 16-8 overall and 6-6 in the Big Eight Conference, gave Nebraska a good idea of the level of play at which it needed to be to beat Oklahoma State.

"We have to go out and play with the same efficiency and intensity as we did against Kansas and we'll be in it," he said.

The Cowboys, 20-7 overall and 9-3 in the Big Eight, shot 63 percent from the field in their win over the Huskers in Stillwater, Okla., on Feb. 18.

"We have to match their physicalness," Nee said. "Oklahoma State shot the ball extremely well down there. There were a lot of contributions from different people."

Piatkowski, who led Nebraska with 17 points in the first meeting, said poor defense from Nebraska aided the Cowboys' hot shooting.

"If we can come out and have our defense play like it should, we should be in it," Piatkowski said. "When we went down to Oklahoma State, our defense was just terrible. We left their guards wide open, and they knocked

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— Piatkowski
NU men's basketball forward

down the open shots. "If we come out and really stick to those guys and collapse down on 'Big Country' (Oklahoma State center Bryant Reeves), we should have a chance at winning it."

Stopping Reeves, who is averaging 20.6 points and a Big Eight-leading 9.9 rebounds a game, will be Nebraska's first objective.

"The big men in the middle have to be guarded," Piatkowski said. "I believe that still needs to be done. They're a road team. They're not intimidated. They're going to come in and play well. We have to step up."

Nebraska's 6-foot-7-inch, 230-pound Bruce Chubick will again be assigned the duty of guarding the 7-foot, 285-pound Reeves.

In the first meeting, Reeves scored 18 points and got 12 rebounds, while Chubick scored four points and grabbed five rebounds.

"I look forward to these kind of matchups," Chubick said. "When I was guarding him last time, I didn't feel like he really went off on me. I'm looking forward to the same results. I feel like I have to go in ready to go to battle, because the guy outweighs me by 60 or 70 pounds."

Chubick said that shutting down the Cowboys was more complex than just containing Reeves.

"They do so many things well," he



Kansas State forward Demond Davis is fouled by Nebraska's Terrance Badgett during the Cornhuskers' 86-77 win at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday.

said. "They are really disciplined. If they get you behind, they don't let you get back into it."

NOTE:

- The American Cancer Society

will be seeking pledges for the "Three-Point Attack" on cancer at tonight's game. Volunteers will be handing out brochures with pledge forms at the door.

Relay team sets record

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's 400-meter medley relay team set a conference record at the Big Eight Swimming and Diving Championships in Oklahoma City Monday.

Jane Glazebrook, Penny Heyns, Julia Russell and Melanie Dodd were clocked at 3 minutes, 43.34 seconds during the second day of the meet, which runs through Wednesday.

Although Dodd anchored the record-setting relay, she also suffered the biggest upset on Monday. She lost to Kansas' Ronda Lusty in the finals of the 50-meter freestyle.

Dodd was the defending Big Eight champion in the event.

The Nebraska men's 400-meter medley relay team of Chris Ford, Conny Wenberg, Justin Finney and Francois Boshoff also brought home first place with an NCAA consideration time of 3:18.43.

The Cornhuskers' Jonathon Kerr also won the 200-meter individual medley.

Jennifer Harnly started the meet on a high note for the Huskers, winning her second straight 1-meter springboard title on Sunday.

Both the men and women were in second place after Monday's events.

Brown is named to Big Eight team

From Staff Reports

Nafeesah Brown, a forward on the Nebraska women's basketball team, was named to the All-Big Eight first team by conference coaches Monday.

Brown, a senior from Chicago, averaged more than 20 points and 10 rebounds per game this season.

Nebraska senior point guard Meggan Yedsena was named to the All-Big Eight second team for the third straight season.

Former wrestler 'one of the guys' as assistant coach

Corey Olson sat with Nebraska wrestlers Frank Velazquez and Scott Gonyo watching videos and joking around.

Olson is just one of the guys. A guy who has been there before. A guy who has experienced the agony of defeat and the triumph of victory.

A guy who has come oh-so-close to a national title—finishing second to Ohio State's Kevin Radleman two years in a row.

But Olson is not going to dwell on the past. He's geared toward the present.

And he's hoping to use his past experiences to guide the Nebraska wrestling team to the top.

Olson is back and ready to go for the Big Eight title.

Except this time, Olson will be on the sidelines coaching, instead of grappling on the mat.

Now a volunteer assistant, Olson capped a brilliant career at Nebraska last season by helping the Cornhuskers to their highest finish ever at the NCAA Championships.

He ranks third on the Nebraska career victories chart and second on the career falls list.

He earned All-American honors three times, but two honors escaped him—a Big Eight title and a national title.

Olson came close to getting both. He finished runner-up at the Big Eight meet twice. Last year he lost to Iowa State's No. 1-ranked Matt Johnson in the finals.

In 1990 he fell to eventual national champion Chris Barnes of Oklahoma State.

But the real jewel would have been a national title, and the same wrestler took it from him twice.

"It wasn't as bad last year," Olson



Tim Pearson

said. "When I walked off the mat, I knew I did everything I could do to win."

Now Olson is doing everything he can to help Nebraska coach Tim Neumann achieve his goal of winning the national title.

Olson, while finishing school this year, volunteered his services as an assistant.

Neumann knew what Olson could do, and obviously he knew that Olson could help his young Husker team.

Senior Velazquez, an All-American and defending Big Eight champion, said Olson had been a steadying

influence on a team with only three seniors.

"Corey's helped everybody out," Velazquez said. "I ask him questions all the time."

But Olson is hoping Velazquez's position brings a national title, not a second-place spot.

Olson couldn't get the national title on the mat, so he's going to do his best to get the Huskers a title on the sidelines.

And he's going to do his best in grooming the Huskers' young talent.

Not the young talent training every day at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, but Nebraska's talented grade school and high school kids.

Olson heads the Huskerland Wrestling Club, which was organized this past summer.

The club is a noncompetitive club, open to kids of all ages, which stresses training, practice techniques and oth-

er aspects of wrestling.

But Olson isn't through with wrestling just yet.

He has his sights focused on the Olympics and international competition, and he's continuing to compete to prepare himself.

This spring Olson will wrestle in the U.S. Open for a spot on the U.S. team for the World and Goodwill Games.

Olson has been a runner-up one too many times.

But if he doesn't wrestle his way to a title, Neumann knows that someday Olson could be a national champion—as a coach.

"He's done a great job," Neumann said. "He's got a natural coaching attitude."

Pretty fitting for one of the guys.

Pearson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.